

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by U.S. patent application publication 2003/0142955 to Hashizume et al. (herein "Hashizume"). Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, and 16 were also noted as rejected over Hashizume, although the legal basis for the rejection is not expressly noted. If maintained, clarification of the rejection claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, and 16 is respectfully requested.

Initially, applicant and applicants' representative wish to thank Examiners Vent and Boccio for the personal interview granted applicant and applicants' representative on August 4, 2005. During the interview the outstanding rejections were discussed in detail. Further, during the interview applicants' representative presented comments as to how the claims as currently written distinguished over the applied art. Such comments are reiterated below. During the interview the Examiners indicated such comments appear to address the outstanding rejections, and would be further reviewed in view of a filed response.

Applicants respectfully submit the claims as currently written distinguish over the teachings in Hashizume, as now discussed below.

The claims as currently written are directed to apparatuses, systems, and methods that allow for an improved display of a moving video image and still images on a display. As shown for example in Figure 15 in the present specification, a moving image can be displayed in a display area 140 and still images, for example thumbnail images, can be displayed in a display area 171.

Thumbnail images have conventionally been displayed at change of scene points. However, the applicants of the present invention recognized that such an approach suffers from certain drawbacks, as shown for example in Figures 16A and 16B in the present

specification. As shown therein, if a change in scenes occurs very often and quickly, as shown in Figure 16A, plural still images A-C will be superimposed on each other, and will not be easily visible. Further, if no change in scene occurs for an extended time, no still image will be displayed, such as in Figure 16B, and in that case a user may not be able to use the still image display for enhanced searching of a desired scene.

The claimed system overcomes such drawbacks by determining whether still images that are to be recorded are either formed excessively often or excessively infrequently during a predetermined period of time. If no still image is recorded over a predetermined period of time, for example 15 seconds, then in the claimed invention a still image will nevertheless be generated and thereby be visible and displayed. Thus, for example in Figure 18 in the present specification, a still image is shown recorded every 15 seconds regardless of whether there is a scene change. Also, if too many scene changes occur during a predetermined period of time, then fewer still images are recorded than the detected scene changes. Thus, for example as shown in Figures 17A, 17B in the present specification, if too many still images occur during a specific period of time, the still images will be spread out to not be overlaid with each other.

In such ways, the claimed invention can address situations such as shown in Figures 16A and 16B when either too many or too few still images are generated in a period of time.

Applicants respectfully submit the claimed features distinguish over the applied art.

First, with respect to independent claim 1, independent claim 1 recites:

third recording controlling means which, if no still image is recorded by said second recording controlling means over a predetermined time period, then records still images at predetermined intervals based on said moving images together with time stamps pertaining to the recorded still images[.]

The above-noted features are believed to distinguish over the applied art to Hashizume.

With respect to the above-noted feature, the outstanding office action states “Figure 16 [of Hashizume] shows the process of detecting that no still images are recorded and wherein still images are recorded as further described in Paragraphs 0051-0054”.¹

Applicants respectfully submit Hashizume in Figure 16 and in paragraphs [0051]-[0054] does not disclose the features such as claimed.

In Figure 16 and in the description in paragraphs [0051]-[0054], Hashizume discloses a situation in which a detected abnormal video signal can be corrected.

However, at the noted portion of paragraphs [0051]-[0054], Hashizume does not disclose any operation in which if no still images are normally recorded over a predetermined period of time, then still images are still recorded at predetermined intervals with time stamps. The disclosure in Hashizume in Figure 16 and paragraphs [0051]-[0054] is only directed to detecting an abnormality in a video signal, and is not at all directed to recording of a still image signal.

Paragraph [0051] in Hashizume also discloses that a log image can be recorded when a video signal is out of synchronization due to a failure during a reproducing operation. However, such a disclosure in Hashizume is not specifically directed to recording a still image signal. Further, such a disclosure in Hashizume does not indicate that a still image is recorded if otherwise no other still images are normally recorded over a predetermined period of time. Hashizume in that regard does not disclose addressing a drawback such as shown for example in Figure 16B in the present specification by recording a still image such as shown in Figure 17A in the present specification.

In paragraph [0062] Hashizume discloses detecting if a connection cable is disconnected or broken if an interval between adjacent change points detected by a scene change point detection process is extraordinarily longer than a standard value. However,

¹ Office Action of May 19, 2005, page 3, lines 9-11.

such a disclosure in Hashizume is only directed to detecting that a connection cable is disconnected or broken. Hashizume does not disclose or suggest in such an operation recording a still image if otherwise a still image is not normally recorded over a predetermined period of time.

In such ways, applicants respectfully submit Hashizume does not disclose the features recited in independent claim 1.

Further, with respect to independent claim 2, independent claim 2 recites:

third recording controlling means which, if the number of scene changes detected by said first detecting means over a predetermined time period is judged excessively large, then records still images that are fewer than the detected scene changes based on said moving images, together with time stamps pertaining to the recorded still images[.]

With respect to that claim feature, the outstanding rejection again cites Figure 16 in Hashizume and also cites paragraphs [0054] and [0062]-[0064].

In that respect, applicants again note paragraph [0054] in Hashizume is directed to only detecting an abnormal video signal. Further, paragraphs [0062]-[0064] are directed to detecting abnormal states such as noise in a reproduced image, a subliminal image, defective video signals, and wire disconnection of the video system (see for example paragraph [0063]). Such teachings in Hashizume are not directed to a problem such as shown for example in Figure 16A in the present specification in which too many scene changes, resulting in too many still images, occur during a predetermined period of time.

In paragraph [0063] Hashizume discloses detecting an abnormality if an interval between adjacent change points is longer or shorter than a predetermined standard length. However, Hashizume does not disclose or suggest that any such detection results in intentionally recording still images that are fewer than the detected scene changes based on the moving images, together with time stamps pertaining to the recorded still images. That is, such a disclosure in Hashizume is not at all directed to addressing the drawback such as

shown for example in Figure 16A in the present specification by recording still images such as shown for example in Figure 17B in the present specification.

In such ways, applicants respectfully submit Hashizume also does not disclose the features recited in independent claim 2.

Further, the other independent claims recite similar features as in independent claims 1 and 2 noted above, and thus the other independent claims are believed to also distinguish over the applied art.

In view of these foregoing comments, applicants respectfully submit claims 1-16 as currently written distinguish over the applied art to Hashizume.

As no other issues are pending in this application, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and it is hereby respectfully requested that this case be passed to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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